MARVEL

8

LGY#658

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THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN

60 YEARS

WHEN MULTIBILLIONAIRE INDUSTRIALIST TONY STARK, INVENTOR EXTRAORDINAIRE, DONS HIS SOLAR-CHARGED, STEEL-MESH ARMOR, HE BECOMES A HIGH-TECH WARRIOR–THE WORLD'S GREATEST HUMAN FIGHTING MACHINE!

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS...

THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN

"YOU CAN'T STAY AT A PARTY TOO LONG IF YOU DON'T GO TO THE PARTY"

PREVIOUSLY...

Tony Stark used to have it all. But after spending his entire fortune to take black-market weapons off the streets, all Stark is left with is his Iron Man armor.

That's left his company, Stark Unlimited, vulnerable to a hostile takeover by the industrialist Feilong, who is using the acquisition to produce mutant-hunting Sentinels with Iron Man technology! Tony refused to let these Stark Sentinels go into production, and he and Rhodey infiltrated the production facility to shut it down.

But the Sentinels were more powerful than Tony anticipated. Rhodey was captured, and now Feilong and Orchis have framed Tony's best friend for murder! It's not a good day to be Tony Stark, and he's about to find out that Orchis' plans reach even further...

NOTE: this issue takes place after X-MEN: HELLFIRE GALA 2023.

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IRON MAN CREATED BY STAN LEE, LARRY LIEBER, DON HECK & JACK KIRBY

Few times have I ever felt as powerless as that day in Jen Walters' office.

My Iron Man technology was being baked into 30-foot tall Sentinels, my best friend was behind bars for something I put him up to…

…and somehow, my attorney wasn't done giving me the bad news.

I NEED RHODEY OUT OF THAT PRISON UNTIL TRIAL. WE DIDN'T KILL ANYONE.

I KNOW, BUT THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE TURN SLOWLY. ONE THING AT A TIME. BACK TO YOUR PROBLEM OF THE MOMENT--

--FEILONG OWNS STARK UNLIMITED, HE OWNS THESE PATENTS, HE LEGALLY OWNS THE TECHNOLOGY IN YOUR ARMORS...YOU NEED TO COMPLY WITH THE CEASE AND DESIST.

OKAY, I HEAR MY ATTORNEY'S COUNSEL. AS MY ***HULK***, WHAT IS YOUR ADVICE?

I...WANNA *SMASH* FOR YOU.

BUT, TONY, *YOU* SET THE PRECEDENT FOR ALL THIS BACK WHEN YOU WERE WAGING AN ARMOR WAR TO KEEP YOUR TECHNOLOGY FROM PROLIFERATING.

YOUR ENEMY HAS TURNED YOUR VICTORIES AGAINST YOU. IF YOU CHANGE YOUR DESIGNS SIGNIFICANTLY--THAT WOULD BE THE ONLY WAY FORWARD. OR FAILING THAT...

...I'M NOT ADVISING YOU TO MOVE YOUR BASE OF OPERATIONS TO A FOREIGN NATION OR INTERNATIONAL WATERS, BUT...MAYBE YOU COULD OPERATE OUT OF ***KRAKOA?***

I'M GOING TO THE HELLFIRE GALA LATER. I COULD TALK TO--

I KNOW WHAT I NEED TO DO--I JUST HAVEN'T BEEN HONEST WITH MYSELF... I HAVEN'T WANTED TO FACE THE TRUTH.

FEILONG WON...

"...HE *OWNS* IRON MAN."

If the sight of my greatest achievement Frankensteined into giant killer robots wasn't sickening enough, the faces on the folks in the street were enough to finish the job.

He calls them "Stark Sentinels."

But on my life, I'll make sure the truth is written. Those are *Feilong's abominations*.

I hadn't been sleeping. I would close my eyes and drift away and I'd imagine losing. These machines were a rat king of engineering problems that I didn't have answers for...yet.

HOT DOGS

By night, I'd sold the cabstand at a loss. Rhodey's legal bills were mounting, and I was preparing to go underground.

BRONSON'S CABS

Captain Marvel asked me to serve on the Avengers, and I've already let one friend down. I'm just going to have to be *stealthier* than I'd like.

That means turning over the Mark 70 to Feilong.

WELL, BUDDY...WE HAD A GOOD RUN.

EMERGENCY ON AVENGERS FREQUENCY: CAPTAIN KRAKOA HAS ATTACKED THE SENATE BUILDING IN WASHINGTON, DC.*

HOLY #$%&.

*SEE FCBD 2023: UNCANNY AVENGERS! --DS

ON SECOND THOUGHT, MAYBE WE HAVE TIME FOR ONE LAST RIDE.

B.O.S.S., PLOT ME A COURSE TO WASHINGTON, DC, WITH THE FLIGHT PLAN THAT WILL SAVE THE MOST ENERGY.

UNDERSTOOD. <WORKING.>

THIS IS CAROL DANVERS-- THE AVENGERS ARE RESPONDING TO THE DC INCIDENT. WE'RE ALL LEAVING THE HELLFIRE GALA NOW.

EMERGENCY ON AVENGERS FREQUENCY: CAPTAIN AMERICA IS REPORTING A DISTRESS CALL FROM THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE.

B.O.S.S., CANCEL THE DC FLIGHT AND GIVE ME BACK THE STICK.

<AUTOPILOT DISENGAGED.>

The Brooklyn Bridge was a minute out…

I made it in fifteen seconds. I was gonna miss the Mark 70.

HIYA, CAP. ROGUE. ANYBODY HURT?

JUST MY MOTORCYCLE. AND MY PRIDE.

I'M HOPING GOING INTO THE SENTINEL BUSINESS WASN'T *YOUR* IDEA?

UH, NO. I'M GUESSING IT WASN'T **CYCLOPS** IN THE CAPTAIN KRAKOA SUIT WHO JUST COMMITTED A TERROR ATTACK?

HELL NO.

LET'S GET TO WASHINGTON-- NOW!

LATER THAT NIGHT.

By the time Rogue, Cap and I got to the U.S. Capitol, the attack was over, the wounded were carted off and the finger pointing had already begun.

In retrospect, the false-flag attack on DC accomplished two things: It whipped up ugly, violent sentiments, and it got all the white hats looking the same way.

I returned to New York City a couple of hours later and called it a night, only to discover my evening was just beginning.

One of Feilong's Sentinels had taken an interest in an office building.

What happened next might've gone differently…

…had I been wearing the **Mark Nil** stealth armor, but I was still repairing it after the attack on the Sentinel factory.

HIGH-VALUE MUTANT DETECTED.

OH MY GOD.

EMMA FROST, A.K.A. THE WHITE QUEEN. THERE IS AN INTERPOL WARRANT FOR YOUR ARREST.

COMPLY OR FACE THE CONSEQUENCES.

THE BIGGER THEY ARE...

SPLAKK!

...THE HARDER THEY FALL.

First tactical adjustment I made after the Armor Wars: have cheap, lightweight and easily deployable ways of disengaging traditional jet propulsion.

But I only have a small amount of that ordnance, so that trick won't work again.

WELL, WELL. WHAT AM I INTERRUPTING HERE?

CAPTAIN KRAKOA ATTACKS WASHINGTON, DC, AND YOU'RE SKIPPING YOUR OWN PARTY TO DO BUSINESS WITH THE, UH...WILSON FISK OF WESTEROS?

YOU LOATHSOME, SELF-RIGHTEOUS IMBECILE.

YOUR MACHINES ATTACKED THE GALA...

...KILLED SCORES AT OUR STATE FUNCTION...

...AND YOU HAVE THE GALL TO SPEAK TO ME LIKE THAT?!

IT'S DONE. YOU WON'T REGRET THIS, FROST.

WAIT-- WHAT?!

AMERICA *AND* KRAKOA WERE ATTACKED? I HAD NO IDEA. I WAS DEALING WITH THE DC SITUATION, AND AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE ON CAPTAIN AMERICA'S LIFE.

WELL, AT LEAST HE IS AN AVENGER I WOULD MISS.

BUT LET'S SET THAT ASIDE-- *WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO ABOUT THOSE MONSTROSITIES?*

I TOLD YOU AT THE LAST HELLFIRE GALA THAT EVERYTHING WAS TURNING TO #$%&, AND YOU DIDN'T LISTEN BECAUSE HERE WE ARE.

AS FOR THOSE SENTINELS WITH MY TECHNOLOGY, I CAN'T EXACTLY DISAPPEAR AT THE MOMENT AND BUILD AN ARMOR THE SIZE OF--

KRANG

I'll let readers of my autobiography in on a little Iron Man secret: If any part of my suit is open while I'm struck, it automatically seals tight.

That's why I step all the way out when I land for a "rest stop."

The armor snaps shut fast.

BOOM!

CRAP. I JUST REALIZED I DIDN'T EAT TONIGHT.

SKRA BOOM!

KA-BOOM

YOU SHOULD USE STARK'S ARRIVAL TO QUIETLY EGRESS, FROST.

GO.

FEILONG, I KNOW YOU'RE LISTENING TO ME AND FEELING VERY CLEVER RIGHT NOW. CONGRATS ON CONQUERING STARK...

...BUT YOU WILL FIND YOU HAVE BITTEN OFF MORE THAN YOU CAN CHEW BY ATTACKING ME. ATTACKING THE X-MEN. ATTACKING ALL OF MUTANTDOM.

DOESN'T FEEL LIKE IT FROM WHERE I'M SITTING.

THERE'S NO NEED FOR ME TO PLAY NICE ANYMORE. YOU LACED THE MEDICINES YOU PUSHED ON HUMANS...

...YOU ATTACKED THE AMBASSADORS THAT CONFRONTED YOU ABOUT IT AT YOUR PARTY...

...AND AN INTERPOL WARRANT WITH YOUR NAME ON IT JUST HIT THE AIR.

YOU MUTANTS ARE A CANCER ON THIS PLANET. I AM THE SURGEON.

I SEE. WE'LL DO THIS THE HARD WAY THEN. IN MY DIAMOND FORM, YOUR HIDEOUS ROBOTS CANNOT HARM ME.

SO LISTEN CLOSELY...I'LL MAKE THIS OFFER BUT ONCE: RETREAT, MAKE RESTITUTION AND ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR HEINOUS ACTIONS...

...OR I'LL SEE YOU DEAD UNDER MY HEEL.

HA!

SENTINELS: PICK HER UP AND THROW HER TO THE STREET.

KILL THEM BOTH.

#$%& ME.

BOOM

HOW WAS YOUR FLIGHT IN?

FOCUS, STARK.

I AM. I'LL COVER YOU--GET OUT OF HERE. IT'S THE SUIT THEY WANT.

I'M IMPERVIOUS TO DAMAGE WHILE IN MY DIAMOND FORM. PERHAPS IT'S I WHO SHOULD COVER YOU?

YOU'RE THE ONE WITH AN INTERPOL WARRANT. YOU WANNA STAY AND HASH THAT OUT WITH THESE BAD ACTORS-- BE MY GUEST.

LOOK, I'M SORRY FOR WHATEVER HAPPENED TO YOU TONIGHT, BUT--

SKRABOOM!

--I'D JUST DECIDED ON A WINNING STRATEGY, AND I DON'T NEED YOU SLOWING ME DOWN.

THREE AGAINST ONE IS HARDLY SPORTING.

ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN MANAGE?

CHOOM!

WELL, IF I CAN'T, AT LEAST IT WILL BE VERY SYMBOLIC OF SOMETHING I WON'T HAVE TO REHASH IN THERAPY.

SEE YA AROUND.

ANTHONY. WE'RE AT WAR. WE'RE ALL AT WAR TOGETHER.

I'M GOING TO FIND WHAT REMAINS OF THE X-MEN.

GOOD. SEND THEM MY WAY-- I DON'T WANT ANYONE TO THINK I'M STEALING THEIR BIT WITH THE SENTINELS.

WAIT-- WHERE'D THEY GO?

OH GOD!

The Sentinels having a limited stealth mode was a real flex. It almost cost me my life.

ANTHONY!

IF YOU'RE ALIVE, GIVE ME ANY SIGN.

ARE YOU ALIVE?!

HELP ME.

ANTHONY, WAKE UP RIGHT NOW!

HELP ME, PLEASE.

HANG ON. I'M ENTERING YOUR MIND.

ANTHONY STARK! CAN YOU HEAR ME? WHERE ARE YOU? YOU MUST MOVE RIGHT NOW!

I'M HERE. BUT YOU SHOULD GET AWAY FROM ME-- I THINK I'M GOING TO DIE.

ENOUGH PEOPLE HAVE DIED TONIGHT, STARK.

SKITCH

DID YOU HEAR ME? ENOUGH PEOPLE HAVE DIED.

WHATEVER TRAUMA YOU'VE RETREATED INTO--IT'S REAL, BUT IT'S NOT WHAT'S HAPPENING RIGHT NOW.

WHERE ARE YOU?

NO WAY OUT

SAFE

I'M DYING.

THAT WOULD BE TREMENDOUSLY... INCONVENIENT GIVEN HOW MANY OTHER DEATHS WE'VE SUFFERED TONIGHT.

YOU'RE IN TERRIBLE DANGER...

...SO MOVE OVER, DARLING. I'M DRIVING.

HOW HARD CAN THIS BE?

LIKE DRIVING A CAR, RIGHT?

UGHN.

FIRE!

PAFF!

KABOOM!

WHOOPSIE.

BWEEEM!

WHAT A HORRID CONTRAPTION. WHO WOULD CONSIGN THEMSELVES TO LIVING IN THIS IRON MAIDEN?

HIGH-VALUE MUTANT TARGET EMMA FROST HAS BEEN LOCATED.

ANTHONY! I'M OUT OF TIME. YOU MUST WAKE UP!

I'M... AWAKE. THANKS...FOR COMING BACK FOR ME.

WHATEVER HAPPENS--TELL THE WORLD THE TRUTH OF TONIGHT, STARK.

TARGET EMMA FROST-- APPREHENDED.

AAAI!

INHIBITOR COLLAR ACTIVATED. TARGET NULLIFIED.

AH!

STOP! I SURRENDER!

UGH.

YOU WANTED THE IRON MAN SUIT...TAKE IT. DON'T KILL THIS WOMAN. IF SHE'S GUILTY OF A CRIME...THEN SHE IS DUE A FAIR TRIAL.

HMM.

PAUSE PURITY PROTOCOLS.

WE HAVE TO STOP MEETING LIKE THIS.

WHAT HAPPENED TO BEING "INVULNERABLE"?

I CAN'T USE MY MENTAL GIFTS WHEN I'M A DIAMOND.

AND...YOU SAVED ME INSTEAD OF RUNNING.

IT WAS SELF-PRESERVATION. BY LIGHT OF DAY, THEY WOULD HAVE CLAIMED I KILLED YOU TONIGHT.

NOBODY WOULD BELIEVE IT.

SHHH. YOU'RE CONCUSSED.

THE WOMAN IS HARMLESS IN THE INHIBITOR COLLAR. IT'D BE A WASTE NOT TO DRILL INTO HER HEAD. TAKE HER TO THAT GULAG ON RANDALL'S ISLAND.

IF STARK RESISTS, ARREST HIM. PREP BOTH FOR ENHANCED INTERROGATION.

WELL, IF THERE'S ONE THING MY CAPITALIST HEART HATES MORE THAN ANYTHING, IT'S A DEBT...SO ALLOW ME TO BALANCE OUR BOOKS.

EXCUSE ME? IS THAT SOME TECH-BRO EUPHEMISM?

I CAN'T READ YOUR MIND AT THE MOMENT. IF YOU'RE SUFFERING FROM A TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY, AND--

RESCUE.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

OH MY GOD.

ANTHONY!

NO! STOP HER!

WE NEED HER-- DEAD OR ALIVE!

FWOOSH!

YOU WANTED ME DEAD--SO DO IT. GO AHEAD...

...KILL AN AVENGER IN THE STREET!

YOU'D BE DEAD BY DAWN.

NEXT: THE END OF IRON MAN

NEXT

#9: TONY STARK: BLACK KING OF THE HELLFIRE CLUB!

FEILONG AND THE STARK SENTINELS HAVE BEATEN IRON MAN AND ROBBED HIM OF HIS ARMOR. BUT TONY ISN'T WITHOUT HIS RESOURCES: HIS FATHER'S MEMBERSHIP TO THE HELLFIRE CLUB AND HIS NEW STEALTH ARMOR!

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